

ASCE Region 8 - August 2017 Newsletter



"advance the Civil Engineering profession by serving the members of Region 8 as an extension of the Board of Direction"

Hello Everybody!

It looks like the season of "Fall" is about to begin, and it may have already started here in Anchorage. The temps have dropped to the mid-40s, snow has been observed in the backcountry mountain tops, and a little closer a few times. These first snows are often referred to as termination dust. We also have the geese as a sign of the season. They are starting to gather, and do what I refer to as "practice formation flying" over our house towards a nearby landing field. It is beautiful to watch them change patterns, and they all seem to be talking at the same time.

With all this happening, there is another yearly due that is important as to where we are at on the calendar. It is the beginning of classes for the schools and the colleges. We live across the street from an elementary school, and it is so wonderful to listen to the chatter of students with their parents going to and from school. To observe the happy faces, especially when showing what they did today at school, brings us joy. Skipping while walking and talking is still in. When was the last time you skipped along on a sidewalk?

This time of year also means that the ASCE Student Chapters will be starting up their activities, and looking for support. Extend an invitation and provide opportunities for the Sections, Branches, and Younger Member Forums to visit Chapter meetings. Take some time to meet, greet, and coordinate activities with our future engineers.

The ASCE Board of Direction (BOD) met 28 & 29 July in Baltimore and the agenda was very full and busy. The BOD's two-day meeting also included time for Society strategy sessions. The sessions developed six goal statements and prioritized a variety of strategies and programs to achieve each. A more complete coverage, "Six-goal ASCE strategic plan being readied" maybe found in the ASCENews, Weekly 11 August Issue. If you have already filed it and would like to read the Article, go to ASCE's website, www.asce.org, and search for ASCENews. Also, you will find at the bottom of that weekly newsletter a report. Click on: "More Board actions in Region 8 Director's Report", and it is me! ASCE's fine staff did the writing and I will make note to a few of those items in the following paragraphs:

- The Board received annual reports from several committees. The Member Communities Committee's (MCC) written report was lengthy and included; 1)

Constituent Committees (Committee on Student Members (CSM), Committee on Younger Members (CYM), and Leader Training Committee (LTC)), 2) Puerto Rico, Canada, and Mexico, Region Section and Member Assignments with five action items to implement these changes, 3) Travel by Domestic Region Governors with request of the BOD to approve changes which was approved, and 4) Student Dues Analysis, Request for BOD Action (no dues increase). MCC stressed the importance of student transition as ASCE continues to develop new strategies for engaging and retaining our Younger Members.

- ASCE Program and Finance Committee, Randall M. Perkinson, P.E., FASCE, Treasurer presented the 2018 Budget for approval which consisted of; a) Dues Increase, b) Student Dues Increase, c) Approve FY18 Operating Budget, d) Approve FY18 Capital Budget, e) Approve Institute FY18 Budgets, f) Concur with Civil Engineering Certification Inc. FY18 Budget, g) Concur with ASCE Foundation FY18 Budget, h) Program Investment Returns, i) American Association of Engineering Societies, Debt and j) OPAL. All items were approved or concurred with except the "Student Dues Increase of \$20," which was not approved.
- The ASCE Task Committee on Governance Structure offered a progress report. The Board voted in an informal straw poll to support the committee's continued efforts to explore potential changes to the structure of the BOD with a final report to be provided at the October 2017 meeting of the BOD.
- The Committee on Sustainability presented four priorities of its strategic roadmap - sustainable project development, standards and protocols, expanding technical capacity, and communication and advocacy.
- The Board of Direction voted unanimously to adopt a new ASCE Canon, Canon 8, to the Society's Code of Ethics, that expresses a professional obligation to provide fair and equal treatment for all. See the write up by ASCE's Executive Director, Tom Smith, in ASCENews, Weekly, 18 August Issue. It is well written and while you are there look at the rest of the Tom's page. He provides other bits of info around ASCE.

One last item, that I would like to bring to your attention was a presentation to the ASCE BOD meeting in Baltimore. ASCE President, Norma Jean Mattei, received a request to make a presentation at the BOD meeting in Baltimore which was granted. The request was from the CEE Department Chairs/Heads representing some 131 universities across the USA to discuss being more engagement in decisions at ASCE regarding undergraduate civil engineering education. This is to look for new ways in which Universities could work with ASCE in the future to help foster more innovation and creativity in college curricula with the objective of increased student interest in civil engineering programs. There were eight presenters, seven from colleges and one private consultant. The presentation I found to be curiously interesting, lots of questions in my mind, and look forward to what may take place next.

The Region 8 Board of Governors (BOG) will be meeting on 7 September, and on 8 & 9 September the BOG will be meeting with the Assembly (Region 8 Sections representatives) in Springdale, Utah. The agendas for both meetings are busy, and much of this relates to those items of the BOD listed in this article. One item in particular is the requirement to revise the Region 8 Bylaws to include those ASCE members residing in Canada, Western Region of CSCE, to be part of Region 8. Our Region's budget for 2018 will be reviewed and discussed at both the BOG and Assembly. The three new Governors (Florence Ching, Fred Nelson, and Bob Turner) will be joining us so that they will be ready to go on the first of October when their terms begin.

I am looking forward to the Region 8 meetings, and specially the open discussions. This is a time for me to listen and learn. Those that will be attending, come ready and share your thoughts.

If you any of you have something you would like to share, send me an [email](#).

Thank you for being a member of ASCE.

Dale A. Nelson, P.E., F.ASCE

Director, Region 8 ASCE

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Montana Section Update

Greetings from the Montana Section! It's hard to believe that summer is winding down already, but with the end of summer, we get to enjoy the evolution and beauty of fall and reprieve from construction season.

Like all sections in the Region, we've been busy this year. Our current officers were installed at our Joint Engineers Conference (JEC) last November and we hit the ground running. The JEC provides a majority of our funding for the year and we've put it to good use. We were fortunate to have Kristina Swallow, Society President-Elect and Brent Borchers, Region 8 Governor, join us for the conference and swear in our new officers.

DREAM BIG in the Big Sky



This year we grabbed hold of the Dream Big film and ran with it. We held our first screening and activity day in Bozeman on March 4 at the Historic Ellen Theatre with additional screenings held at the Montana State University campus in April. Our section President-Elect, Crystal Kuntz, P.E. was able to secure two more screenings in Billings at one of the two IMAX theaters in the state. We pre-sold tickets, and sold out every show. We are currently planning a third round of screenings at Carroll College with the help of one of our branch vice Presidents, Tiffany Bradley, and the Carroll College Student Chapter.

Death and Taxes

The Montana Section has the privilege of having a seat on the board of the Montana Infrastructure Coalition (MIC). It has been, and still is, the mission of the MIC to pursue legislation to improve failing infrastructure in the State. The Montana legislature only convenes every two years, so it is imperative to have our 'ducks in a row', as it were. We were ready with our Infrastructure Report Card in-hand at the hearings to lay out the facts for the decision makers. The end result was a 2.5 cent increase on gasoline and 0.5 cent increase on diesel sales tax in the first year. Over a 4 year period the tax increase would eventually end up at 4.5 cents for gasoline and 1.5 cents for diesel. Although we didn't get everything we desired as a coalition, the additional revenue directed straight to local governments will go a long way to improving the condition of our roads and bridges.

Upcoming Events

The JEC will again be hosted in Helena Montana on held November 1-3. See www.jecregistration.com for more information and to register.

The ASCE Lewis and Clark History and Heritage Project needs your help. Please see the article [below](#) for more information about the project and how to get involved.

And last but not least, in the upcoming year the Montana Section will be undertaking the huge effort of updating and expanding our State Report Card to be ready in time for the next legislative session. Volunteers are needed and appreciated for this important effort.

Daniel J. Karlin, P.E., M.ASCE
President, ASCE Montana Section

"Day of Dreaming Big" Provides Latina Girls Engineering Experience

On July 28th, the ASCE Oregon Section brought 50 female students to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) for a day of exploring engineering, and the screening of "Dream Big". ASCE volunteers teamed up with [Adelante Mujeres](#), a non-profit serving low income Latina families, for a "Day of Dreaming Big". This field trip was the finale at the end of STEM Week for their summer camp.



Building and Testing Paper Towers Against Wind and Earthquakes

The students visited the museum, and participated in hands-on engineering activities. The students built paper towers, and tested them against wind and earthquakes. They also learned about the buoyancy needed for underwater robots, and the gears used in the Falkirk wheel. Each activity was themed around a project highlighted in the final event: the screening of "Dream Big".



Attending a Screening of "Dream Big"

The girls were surveyed at the beginning and at the end of the day. Each student was given a Lego, and asked to place their Lego in one of two jars. The jars were labeled "I might want to be an engineer" and "I am not interested in engineering." Eighteen of the 50 students voted that they "might want to be an Engineer" in the morning. By the end of the day, that number more than doubled to 40 of 50!



The Next Generation of Engineers!

Volunteers, Chaperones, and Students enjoyed discovering the museum, and problem-solving as a team. All attendees left inspired by the film and the opportunity to be our next generation of engineers.

Courtney Davis, P.E., M.ASCE
ASCE Oregon Section

Free Webinar - Hydrologic Warning Systems 101

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Corps of Engineers' Silver Jackets recently facilitated a webinar, presented by Dr. David C. Curtis, WEST Consultants, Inc. Senior Vice President, through the Watershed University program on the topic of Hydrologic Warning Systems. Dr. Curtis represented the National Hydrologic Warning Council, as their former president, board of director's member, and longtime member.

The webinar provided a basic introduction to planning, designing, and implementing hydrologic warning systems. Key questions addressed in the webinar included:

1. What is the purpose of a hydrologic warning system?

2. How are potential benefits of a hydrologic warning system achieved?
3. How is a hydrologic warning system configured?
4. How many gages are needed?
5. What type of automation is needed?
6. What are the roles of the Internet, cloud computing, and social media?
7. How can hydrologic warning systems impact flood insurance rates?
8. How is public engagement facilitated?

Access to the recorded webinar and a pdf version of the presentation are available for free on the California Department of Water Resources' website:

[Webinar Recording: Hydrologic Warning Systems 101 \(MP4, 187 MB\)](#)

[Presentation: Hydrologic Warning Systems 101 \(PDF: 12 MB\)](#)

About the Speaker:

For the past 40 years, Dr. Curtis, Ph.D., F.EWRI, Sr. Vice President, WEST Consultants, Inc., has been on the leading edge of hydro-meteorological and flood risk management services. He has been involved in the design, development, and implementation of award winner.

Team Members Needed

Are you a history buff and interested in researching more about the Lewis and Clark Expedition land survey from St Louis to the Oregon Coast?

The ASCE Lewis and Clark History and Heritage Project needs your help. We are looking for team members interested in researching, documenting and writing about the Lewis and Clark land survey in their state. We are also looking for team members to research, document and write about the land survey methods, instrumentation, innovation, and impact.

If this sounds interesting to you, please contact [Shoots Veis](#) or call him at 406-697-7128 for more information about the project and how to get involved.

Region 8 Calendar of Upcoming Events

ASCE Region 8 Fall Assembly and Planning Meeting, Springdale (Zion NP), UT Sept. 7 - 9, 2017 (for Section and Branch officers only)

2017 Annual ASCE/ASHE State Conference - Arizona, Phoenix, AZ, Sept. 15, 2017

ASCE National Convention, New Orleans, LA Oct. 8 - 11, 2017

Joint Engineers Conference, Helena, MT, November 1-3, 2017.

Visit [Region 8 Events](#) for more information.

STAY CONNECTED:

